

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are present in the above-captioned application and have been subjected to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, the Official Action avers that the following inventions are present in the claims:

Group I, Claims 1-16, drawn to an ultrasound phantom, classified in class 73, subclass 1.86;

Group II, Claims 17 and 18, drawn to an ultrasound phantom, classified in class 73, subclass 1.86; and

Group III, Claims 19 and 20, drawn to a manufacturing method for an ultrasound phantom, classified in class 29, subclass 530.

It is the Examiner's position that the inventions listed as Groups I, II and III are distinct from each other.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, Applicants elect to prosecute the subject matter of Group I, Claims 1-16 (claims 3, 4, 10, 14 and 16 being canceled by the present Preliminary Amendment). However, Applicants reserve the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application.

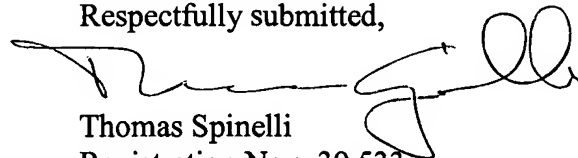
Furthermore, it is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-identified application prior to examination.

By means of the present Preliminary Amendment, claims 3, 4, 10, 14 and 16 have been canceled and the claims have been amended to clarify the same. Furthermore, new claims 21-27 have been added by way of the present Preliminary Amendment. New claims 21-27 belong to elected Group I and Applicants respectfully request continued prosecution of

the same along with elected claims 1-16. New claims 21-27 are fully supported in the original disclosure. Thus, no new matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of the addition of new claims 21-27.

In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims, at an early date, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Spinelli
Registration No.: 39,533

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser
400 Garden City Plaza, Suite 300
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343
TS:cm